

REMARKS

Claims 1 and 15 have been amended to clarify the subject matter therein. Claims 3, 5-8 and 10 have been rewritten to correct their respective dependency with claims 6-8 further amended to clarify the relationship of the duct panel in the table. Claim 11 has been rewritten in independent form. Claims 2, 4 and 9 have been canceled and new claims 17-21 have been added.

Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested for the following reasons:

Rejection of claims 1-10 and 12-14 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Branz et al.(5,168,719)

This rejection is respectfully traversed on the ground that Branz neither discloses nor suggests a food preparation table as defined in the amended claim 1. According to the amended claim 1, the food preparation table includes a food storage compartment which preserves foodstuff items; and a cooled air shower device which is disposed above the food storage compartment and supplies cooled air thereinto, wherein the cooled air shower device distributes the cooled air evenly along a substantially entire length of the food storage compartment and includes a horizontally disposed first duct panel having a plurality of holes through which the cooled air flows into the food storage compartment, wherein the plurality of holes are formed in one wall thereof extending substantially the entire length of the food storage compartment.

Since the first duct panel of the cooled air shower device has a plurality of holes formed along a substantially entire length of the food storage compartment, the cooled air shower device can distribute the cooled air evenly along a substantially entire length of the food storage compartment.

In contrast, as can be clearly seen in col. 16, lines 54-65 and Fig. 8 of Branz, the storage compartment cool air supply openings 124 are grouped at the end of compartment 27 that is farthest from evaporator fans 56. That is, cool air supply openings 124 are not formed along substantially the entire length of the food storage compartment for distributing cooled air evenly into the food storage compartment.

Since Branz's food preparation table cannot distribute cooled air evenly into the food storage compartment, an inner space of the storage compartment is not effectively cooled so that uniformity of a temperature distribution therein cannot be achieved. Consequently, Branz's food preparation table fails to accomplish the object to achieving a uniform temperature distribution in a food storage compartment by distributing cooled air evenly into the food storage compartment.

Therefore, since Branz lacks the above feature of the presently claimed invention, and since there is no possible motivation to include the feature, it is respectfully submitted that Kitamura could not have suggested the invention of the amended claim 1, and that the rejection under 35 USC 102(b) is therefore improper.

It is also believed that claims 3, 5-8, 12-16 directly or indirectly depending on claim 1 are allowable for the same reasons indicated with respect to claims 1, and further because of the additional features recited therein which remove the invention defined therein further from the disclosures made in the cited reference.

Rejection of claims 15 and 16 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Branz et al.(5,168,719) in view of Rafalovich et al.(6,519,970)

This rejection is respectfully traversed on the ground that neither Branz nor Rafalovich discloses or suggests the above positively recited feature of a food preparation table as defined in the amended claim 1, and further because of the additional features recited in the amended claims 15 and 16 which remove the invention defined therein further from the disclosures made in the cited reference.

Objection to claim 11 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim

Applicant has rewritten claim 11 to include all of the limitations of claims 1 and 9 and amended claim 10 to be dependent upon the amended claim 11 which is allowable.

It is also believed that new claims 17-21 are allowable since those claims are indirectly or directly dependent upon the amended claim 11 which is allowable.

CONCLUSION

Applicant believes that this is a full and complete response to the Office Action. For the reasons discussed above, applicant now respectfully submits that all of the pending claims are in complete condition for allowance. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner's rejections be withdrawn; and that claims 1, 3, 5-8, 10-21 be allowed in their present form.

Should the Examiner require or consider it advisable that the specification, claims an/or drawings be further amended or corrected in formal respects, in order to place the case in condition for final allowance, then it is respectfully requested that such amendment or correction be carried out by Examiner's Amendment and the case be passed to issue.

Alternatively, should the Examiner feel that a personal discussion might be helpful in advancing this case to allowance, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted
Associate Attorney for Applicants,

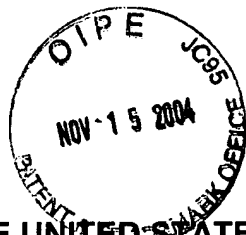
By: 

Eugene Lieberstein
Registration No. 24,645

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CUSTOMER NO. 01109

ANDERSON KILL & OLICK, P.C.
1251 Avenue of the Americas
New York, New York 10020-1182
(212) 278-1000

**N THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Application No. : 10/612,794
Applicant : Ki Rin Sung
Filed : July 01, 2003
Title : FOOD PREPARATION TABLE
TC/A.U. : 3744
Examiner : TAPOLCAI, WILLIAM E.

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this AMENDMENT is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed: Mail Stop AMENDMENT, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on **November 12, 2004**.

Audrey De Souza (Typed or printed name of person mailing paper or fee)

Audrey De Souza (Signature of person mailing paper or fee)